

Key to the Family Melinnidae of SCAMIT (Ed. 15) and Other Regional Species

Definitions

- C# - chaetiger #
MGS - Methyl Green Stain
TU# - Thoracic unciniger #
AU# - Abdominal unciniger #

Uncini Dentition Formula : A/P(R#)(X/Cr#:X:...)

- A- Avicular
P- Pectinate
(R#)- # of rows of teeth when viewed laterally
(X:X:...) - # of teeth in each row when view head-on
Cr#- Crown of small teeth & # of teeth in crown

Key

† - species described from California but not reported by SCAMIT

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|---|---|---|
| 1a. Dorsal hooks present; postbranchial dorsal membrane present ----- | Genus <i>Melinna</i> | 2 |
| 1b. Dorsal hooks absent; postbranchial dorsal membrane present or absent ----- | Genus <i>Melinnopsis</i> | 4 |
| | | |
| 2a. (1a) Dorsal hooks recurved (<90°), without canal on convex surface; branchiae with pigmented crossbars; eyespots present (may be faded); peristomium without ventral glandular pad: MGS - collar with lateral striations ----- | | 3 |
| 2b. Dorsal hooks not recurved (>90°), with canal on convex surface; branchiae unpigmented; eyespots absent; peristomium with ventral glandular pad; abdomen with <54AU: MGS - collar with solid stain; dorsum with single band posterior to dorsal membrane and in dorso-lateral groove above notopodia thru C11 ----- | <i>Melinna heterodonta</i>
Moore, 1923
Type locality - Pt. Piños Lighthouse, CA | |
| | | |
| 3a. (2a) Dorsal hooks recurved (<90°); branchiae with dark pigment bars; eyespots present in scattered rows around glandular ridge; abdomen with 55-58AU: MGS - dorsum with large, dark stain patch posterior to dorsal membrane (TU1-4) ----- | <i>Melinna oculata</i>
Hartman, 1969
Type locality - Palos Verdes, CA | |
| 3b. Dorsal hooks strongly recurved (much <90°); branchiae with dark or white pigment bars; scattered eyespots present; abdomen with 52-56AU: MGS - dorsum without large, stain patch posterior to dorsal membrane (TU1-4) or with only scattered stain ----- | <i>Melinna</i> sp LA1
Haggin, 2026 §
Type locality - Palos Verdes, CA | |
| | | |
| 4a. (3a) Postbranchial dorsal membrane absent; abdominal uncini avicular ----- | | 5 |
| 4b. Postbranchial dorsal membrane present, with 15-17 teeth; abdominal uncini pectinate - P(R2)(1:1); thoracic uncini - P(R2)(1:1) ----- | <i>Melinnopsis moorei</i> †
(Hartman, 1960)
Type locality - Santa Catalina & San Miguel Islands, CA | |

- 5a. (3b) Postbranchial dorsal membrane absent; thoracic uncini - P(R3)(1:1:1);
abdominal uncini - A(R3)(Cr8:Cr4:1) ----- *Melinnopsis abyssalis* †
(Hartman, 1969)
Type locality - San Clemente Basin, CA
- 5b. Postbranchial dorsal membrane absent, but with a narrow glandular band;
thoracic uncini - P(R3/4)(2:2:2:2); abdominal uncini - A(R4)(Cr10-
12:Cr6/7:Cr4:1) ----- *Melinnopsis armipotens* †
(Moore, 1923)
Type locality - Santa Catalina Islands,
CA

Comments

Melinnopsis abyssalis, *Melinnopsis armipotens* & *Melinnopsis moorei* - These species have not yet been reported by SCAMIT but are included here as they may be encountered during Bight Surveys.

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Version History

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